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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8668
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1794
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5268
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8868
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6440
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4271
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2262
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000093

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP AND IO; PACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/12/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: BURMA: DOCTOR SAYS ASSK IS WELL; OPEN TO DIALOGUE

REF: A. RANGOON 068

[1](#)B. 08 RANGOON 945

Classified By: Pol Officer Sean O'Neill for Reasons 1.4 (b) & (d)

[1](#)1. (C) In a February 13 meeting with Poloff, Aung San Suu Kyi's (ASSK) personal physician Dr. Tin Myo Win (aka Douglas) confirmed he visited with his patient at her home on January 1 and February 5. Since October, the regime has honored its agreement to grant him access to ASSK on the first Thursday of each month. Douglas told us he spent approximately four hours at ASSK's home on each visit and said the NLD leader remains in excellent health and good spirits. Douglas informed us that he was able to pass her a jar of blueberry jam on behalf of one of our former P/E Chiefs, and that she was grateful for the gift. She reportedly said she greatly appreciates USG continued support for the cause of democracy in Burma, and she hopes to convey such thanks directly to the Charge one day.

[1](#)2. (C) Douglas believes that regime scrutiny on him has lessened in the past few weeks, and he said he hopes to be able to meet with us again soon. (Note: Douglas cancelled a similar appointment with Poloff in January, and failed to return our numerous calls until February 11, presumably due to government scrutiny.)

[1](#)3. (C) Douglas said ASSK lamented recent reports in state media which claim she rejected offers to meet with Liaison Minister Aung Kyi last fall (Ref A). Douglas told us that ASSK explained she never refused to meet with Aung Kyi, but demurred due to her poor health at the time. ASSK said UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari in a meeting on Feb. 2 relayed a new GOB offer for her to meet with Aung Kyi and Gambari at an unspecified future date. She told Douglas she made clear she is open to such a meeting.

[1](#)4. (C) Douglas told us that on his February 5 visit, he passed ASSK a number of personal letters and parcels from both of her sons, Alexander and Kim. Douglas said all of the letters were pre-screened by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which consented to their delivery. On December 16, Douglas had informed us the British Embassy had given him letters from Kim - who lives in the UK - but not from Alexander - who lives in the US (Ref B). During our February 13 meeting, Douglas was not specific about how the letters from Alexander were subsequently delivered to him, except to say that he

thinks Alexander is presently in the UK. Note: another source has told us both sons have instructions to convey their letters to ASSK via the British Embassy in Rangoon.

Comment

15. (C) UN SYG Ban's public plea after the most recent Gambari visit for both sides in Burma to engage in dialogue without preconditions has seemingly struck a nerve in the democratic opposition. The conversation with Douglas suggests ASSK wants to clarify that she, at least, is ready for dialogue. Per septel, we have heard a similar message in our recent conversations with NLD Uncles.
DINGER